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Bantawa language

The **Bantawa Language** (also referred to as An Yüng, Bantaba, Bantawa Dum, Bantawa Rai, Bantawa Yong, Bantawa Yüng, Bontawa, Kirawa Yüng),[3] is a Kiranti language spoken in the eastern Himalayan hills of eastern Nepal by Bantawa ethnic groups. They use a syllabic alphabet system known as Kirat Rai.[4] Among the Kirat Rai people of Eastern Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kalimpong in India. Bantawa is the largest language spoken.[5] According to the 2001 National Census, at least 1.63% of the Nepal's total population speaks Bantawa. About 370,000 speak Bantawa Language mostly in eastern hilly regions of Nepal (2001). Although Bantawa Rai is among the more widely used variety of the Bantawa language, it falls in the below-100,000 category of endangered languages.[6] It is experiencing language shift to Nepali, especially in the northern region.[7]

Bantawa is spoken in subject-object-verb order, and has no noun classes or genders.[8]

Bantawa	
Region	Nepal Sikkim Darjeeling and Kalimpong in India
Native speakers	170,000 (2001 & 2011 censuses)[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetian ▪ Mahakiranti ? ▪ Kiranti ▪ Central Kirati ▪ Southern ▪ **Bantawa**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`bap` – inclusive code Individual code: `wly` – Waling
Glottolog	`bant1280 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bant1280)`[2]

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Dialects

Most of the Bantawa clan are now settled in Bhojpur, Dharan, Illam, and Dhankuta. Recent figures show most of them are settled in Dharan. Bantawa is spoken in the following districts of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- Province No. 1: Bhojpur District, Dhankuta District, Ilam District, Jhapa District, Khotang District, Morang District, Okhaldhunga District, Panchthar District, Sunsari District, Taplejung District and Udayapur District

Dialects are as follows (*Ethnologue*).

- Northern Bantawa (Dilpali)

  Northern subdialects: Mangpahang, Raipachha, Awaichha, Rungchenbung and Yangma

- Southern Bantawa (Chewali, Okhreli, Hatuwali, Hangkhim)

Southern and Northern Bantawa, similar, could be united as 'Intermediate Bantawa'.

- Eastern Bantawa (Dhankuta)

  Eastern dialect is the most divergent. It is most closely related to Dungmali language, though also related to Puma language, Sampang language, and Chhintange language.

- Western Bantawa (Amchoke, Amchauke)

  Amchaucke dialects: Sorung, Saharaja, Lulam, and Sukita

- Wana Bantawa (also called simply Bantawa), spoken by the Bantawa subcaste. The Amchoke dialect is spoken in the Limbu area, especially in Ilam district.

Bantawa is also considered as a superior clan in the Kiranti family. Bantawa is also reportedly in use as a *lingua franca* among Rai minorities in Himalayan India and Bhutan. Meanwhile, the language is just being introduced in a few schools at the primary level (Year 1- Year 5) [9] using Devanagari script.[10] [11]

The extinct Waling language attested from the late 19th century may have been a variety of Bantawa, or a closely related language, if not the Hatuwali dialect the Waling people speak today.

Bantawa Language

Wasewa - Bihanko namaste- good morning, Khosewa - dinko namaste good afternoon Khasewa - sanjhko namaste - good evening

Bantawa	Nepali	English
Aalange Sewa अालांङे सेवा	नमस्ते	Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening, Aalangne = Dhanyabad - Thanks
Koke कोक	भात	Food, Rice
Khan खान	तरकारी	Curry
Manachi मनाची	मानिसहरू	People
Diwa दिवा	हजुरबुवा	Grandfather
Dima दिमा	हजुरअामा	Grandmother
Aapa अापा	वुवा	Father
Aama अामा	अामा	Mother
Nana नाना	दिदी	Elder-sister
Nichha Mechhachha निछा मेछाछा	बहिनी	Little-Sister= Nichham
Dewa देवा	बडा बुवा	Uncle elder to dad
Dema देमा	बडी अामा	Aunt Elder to Dad/ Dad's elder sister-in-law
Banga बाङा	काका	Uncle younger to Dad
Chhana छना	काकी	Younger uncle wife
Aabuwa अाबुवा	दाजु	Elder Brother= Buwa
Nichha Duwachha निछा दुवाछा	भाइ	Younger Brother= Nichhap
Nichha O Chhachi निछा अो छाची	भाइ बहिनीका छोरा छोरी	Brothers children Son/ Daughter
Aachhuwa अाछुवा	मामा	Mother's Brother= Chhuwa
Phepwa फेप्वा	पैसा	Money= Phekwa, Yaang
Teet तित	लुगा	Cloths
Chawa चावा	पानी	Water= Chakwa
Me मि	अागो	Fire
Pitho पिठो	पिठो	Flour= Thuli
Sampicha साम्पिचा	कोदो	Millet
Khawat/Wachhon खावात, वाछोन	जार	Locally brew wine
Hengmawa हेङमावा	रक्सी	Rum/Whisky/Brandy
Saa सा	मासु	Meat
Fupu फुपु	फुपु	Aunt (Father's sister)= Chhana
Diwa/Dima दिवा, दिमा	हजुरबुवा, हजुरअामा	Grandmother (Father's mother)
Oyatni अोयात्नी	यहा	Here
Moyatni मोयात्नी	त्यहा	There
Khadatni खादात्नी	कहाँ	Where
Demni देम्नी	कति	How

Monni मोन्नी	यति मात्र	This much
Chama चामा	खानु	Eat
Tacha तचा	खाने हो?	Eat ?
Koke Tacha? कोक तचा ?	खाना खाने हो ?	Do you eat rice?

Words Corrected by: Kiran Bantawa (Mangphang-Lokchwawa)

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External links

- A Grammar of Bantawa (https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/14326)
- Bantawa: observations of a threatened language (http://robbie.eugraph.com/bantawa/report.html)

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